

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (withdrawn) A process for the differential diagnosis of primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising:

obtaining a blood sample; and

determining the presence therein of an autoantibody to ICA69;

whereby the presence of said autoantibody confirms a diagnosis of primary Sjögren's Syndrome.

Claim 2. (currently amended) An immunotherapeutic process for alleviating and/or reversing the progression of symptoms characteristic of primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising:

~~treating an individual suffering from primary Sjögren's Syndrome with a high affinity mimicry peptide targeting~~
administering to a mammal exhibiting said symptoms an ABBOS peptide which targets ICA69-specific T cells in a manner effective to induce tolerance to a relevant ICA69 epitope

whereby a reduction in the symptoms characteristic of primary Sjögren's Syndrome is attained.

Claim 3. (withdrawn) A transgenic NON congenic mouse in characterized by inactivation of the genomic ICA69 locus.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) An assay for monitoring the disease status of a patient diagnosed with primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising;

periodically obtaining a blood sample from said patient; and
periodically analyzing said blood sample for the presence and
or quantity of autoantibodies to ICA69;

whereby the presence or relative increase or decrease in ICA69 autoantibody concentration is indicative of the disease status of said patient.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A process for reversing the symptoms of sialoadenitis and dacryadenitis associated with late stage primary Sjögren's Syndrome comprising:

~~treating an individual suffering from primary Sjögren's Syndrome with a high affinity mimicry peptide targeting~~
administering to a mammal exhibiting said symptoms an ABBOS peptide
which targets ICA69-specific T cells in a manner effective to induce immunotherapeutic tolerance to ICA69;

whereby a reversal of the symptoms of sialoadenitis and dacryadenitis associated with late stage primary Sjögren's Syndrome

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is attained.

Claim 6. (new) The immunotherapeutic process according to claim 2 wherein said ABBOS peptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 7. (new) The process according to claim 5 wherein said ABBOS peptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.